

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 HEW-04 IO-13 /080 W
 -----240553Z 111277 /10

R 232014Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9214
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 6175

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, DR
SUBJ: MASS PARDON OF PRISONERS

1. ON EVENING DECEMBER 22, PRESIDENT BALAGUER ISSUED DECREE
PARDONING SOME 150 PRISONERS, MOST OF WHOM APPARENTLY ARE COMMON
CRIMINALS. LIST DID INCLUDE, HOWEVER, POLITICALLY KNOWN
LEFTIST PERSONALITIES ELIGIO BLANCO PENA OF 14 JUNE REVOLUTIONARY
MOVEMENT, MIGUEL ANGEL MUNIZ ARIAS OF MOVIMIENTO POPULAR
DOMINICANO (MPD) U L W I O D W O R U B I R O S A G A R C I A OF THE TRINITARIANS
AND A NUMBER OF RIGHTTEST EX-MILITARY FIGURES INVOLVED IN
ABORTIVE 1971 WESSIN COUP PLOT.

2. EACH CHRISTMAS PRESIDENT BALAGUER ISSUES PARDONS, BUT NUMBER
GRANTED CLEMENCY THIS YEAR FAR EXCEEDS ANYTHING IN PAST.
YESTERDAY'S ACTION SEEMS TO BE CONTINUATION OF RECENT TREND
TO RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO NO LONGER ADVOCATE VIOLENT
OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT, EVEN IF THEY HAVE PLOTTED AND ACTED
AGAINST IT IN THE PAST. GOVERNMENT'S SOFTENING POLICY ON
PRISONERS FOLLOWS RECENT TREND TO MORE PACIFIC LINE TAKEN
BY EXTREME LEFT AND MAY REFLECT GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO
ACCOMMODATE GROWING US INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDUCT
OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, PRISONERS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTO06175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760472-0029
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761216/aaaaanwh.tel
Line Count: 55
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MASS PARDON OF PRISONERS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006